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Message Text

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53
ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /004 W
---------- 117380
O R 131123Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3794
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 3295

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE, IEA/L,
IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK FOR VIA AND PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPX, PINT, LA
SUBJECT: USINFO

1. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA HAS APPEALED TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE LEFT LAOS TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS. IN AN ANNOUNCEMENT READ ON LAO NATIONAL RADIO, SOUVANNA SAID THAT OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT RETURN BY MAY 15 WILL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE ABANDONED THEIR POSTS AND WILL FACE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES. MANY VIENTIANE-SIDE OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT HAVE CROSSED THE RIVER INTO THAILAND.

2. IN THE ROYAL LAO ARMY (FAR), SEVERAL GENERALS HAVE SENT TELEGRAMS PROCLAIMING THEIR LOYALTY TO THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. SUPREME COMMANDER OF THE LAO ARMED FORCES GENERAL BOUNPONE MAKTHEPHARASKS ISSUED THREE "OFFICIAL ORDERS" URGING LAO MILITARY TO WORK AS USUAL, TO COOPERATE WITH THE PATHET LAO FORCES, TO RESPECT LAO LAWS AND GOVERNMENT UNDER PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG (PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL AND TITULAR PATHET LAO HEAD), AND TO REMAIN CALM. ALL MOVEMENT OF FAR IS PROHIBITED.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A MAINCHI SHIMBUN CORRESPONDENT ORIGINALLY TAPED APRIL 14 BUT RE-PLAYED ON LAO NATIONAL RADIO
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THIS MORNING, FOREIGN MINISTER

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AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, A PATHET LAO, SAID
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES "ARE IMPROVING" AND THAT LAOS "WOULD
BE
GLAD TO ACCEPT US AID OFFERS, BUT THEY MUST HAVE NO STRINGS ATTACHED.
"

4. THE CADETS WHO OCCUPIED A TECHNICAL SCHOOL AT THE EDGE
OF VIENTIANE HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR CAMP.

5. MEANWHILE, NON-COMMISSIONED MILITARY POLICE OFFICERS AT
ANOTHER CAMP ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS OUTSIDE VIENTIANE HAVE STAGED
A PROTEST, AND HAVE CLOSED THE CAMP OFF TO OFFICERS. THIS PROTEST
HAS BEEN VERY LOCALIZED.
HARDY

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